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Comments: My wife and I were unable to attend the discussion in the HS gym on Oct. 6th, but we read about it in the local Pathfinder newspaper. I also took the time to read all of the "Opinions" which is something I rarely if ever do. All the opinions presented that were "against" the POWDR expansion of Holland Lake Lodge, if all lumped together, would be spot-on to what I could write here. There were a couple things missing however, and I'll share these here. I grew up in Montana, left at 18 to chase dreams, the military, and a profession that quite frankly, did not really exist in Montana at the time. My wife and I lived east of Seattle in the small mountain town of "North Bend", where we commuted from to go to work in Redmond Wa. Some may remember North Bend as the setting for the 80's TV show "Twin Peaks" and especially "Tweeds Cafe". North Bend hadn't changed much since those days. There was a lake outside North Bend, off I-90 exit 32, 6 miles up Cedar Falls Rd. from our house, which we could access year-round via an old rail-road bed turned into a trail. Once up at "Rattlesnake Lake" there were many things to do. Another Rail to Trail - "The Iron Horse (State Park) Trail" (also known as "The John Wayne Trail") that went from the Cedar River Watershed Education Center at Rattlesnake, across western, central, eastern Washington, northern Idaho, Montana, and all the way to Chicago. There was another trail, more rustic as it was switch-backs that went 2 miles up the side of Rattlesnake Mountain, to a large rocky lookout called Rattlesnake Ledge. For our first 8 years in North Bend, one could drive to Rattlesnake Lake, and find ample parking available on most days. Weekend afternoons would tend to get busier but not overcrowded by any means. Then one day, an outdoor enthusiast that also was a writer, hiked the Rattlesnake Ledge trail, and then wrote about this little "hidden" gem of a hike that was so close to Seattle. That article hit the Seattle Times, as well as a couple of outdoor magazines. Within days, the once pristine, moderately used lake and trail suddenly became a destination for what seemed half of all Microsoft employees, or a 10th of Seattle residents. The created, lined, plotted, "approved" parking became inaccessible, and people began parking on Cedar Falls Road, some in groups even double parking. It eventually got so bad that people began parking in the residential area of a small mountain residential area nearby. The human pressure on the trail up to the ledge was far beyond capacity. Imagine if you will the lines people experienced during the gas crisis in the Carter years, or the lines 2 or 3 times around the block for the very first Star Wars back in the late 70's. The trail to the ledge looked just like this, only there was no can of gas, or big screen, or even a big screen TV from a Walmart Black Friday sale - those lines get bad too. Along with this human pressure, and the constant stream of people going up and down the trail, came the TRASH. Not just a snack bar wrapper here or a lost water bottle there, but a steady ribbon of garbage tossed aside by this mass of humanity that was continuously streaming up and down the mountain side. I know, not all would litter, but many if not most did and many of these were what here in Montana we'd call "greenies" or "Tree Huggers, Save the Whales, Save the Planet" types. I personally knew of 2 these types and actually witnessed them littering in the forest. They all seemed to have the attitude that this was like a theme park and "Oh, somebody else will get it". Unfortunately that "somebody else" was an overworked staff of 2 rangers, assigned to police this entire area. Now I know Missoula and Kalispell are not Seattle, and we don't have a Microsoft campus here (thank goodness). And most ALL OF US could be considered "greenies" not by our politics or spoken statements, but by our actions - We DO care about our environment, we DO NOT litter and in fact get irked when witnessing others do so. We want our forests to remain pristine and litter free. The POWDR plan is a slippery slope. As at least one person mentioned in the Pathfinder, they OWN resorts. With the expansion of the Lodge will come a horde of people. Sure, nothing like what Rattlesnake Ledge experienced, but if this plan goes through, what Rattlesnake experienced will eventually come here to our own pristine neck of the woods. Also, I am very concerned about, as others mentioned in the Pathfinder, about the impact on the Dolly Vardon in Holland Lake, the Canada Lynx and Wolverine as well. Another point I've intentionally left unmentioned till now, is the amount of inexperienced Outdoor Enthusiasts that will go to Holland Lake Lodge, to then go to the upper falls, and continue hiking and end up in some type of emergency. Living outside North Bend Wa, actually nearly a straight shot up to Rattlesnake Ledge, we would hear no less than 2, sometimes up to 5 or more helicopters flying up to Rattlesnake to do a "Rescue" as somebody had fallen off the ledge. Quite often, these

efforts resulted in a Recovery rather than a rescue. Yes we have a heli-pad at the medical clinic, but the valley is really not equipped to run a continuous stream of rescue efforts every weekend. Please don't overwhelm our trails and rescue teams.